DELL
12c
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JAN.-MAR.

THE OUTER LIMITS

NO WEAPONS ON EARTH CAN DEFEAT THE STRANGE CREATURES FROM OUTER SPACE!

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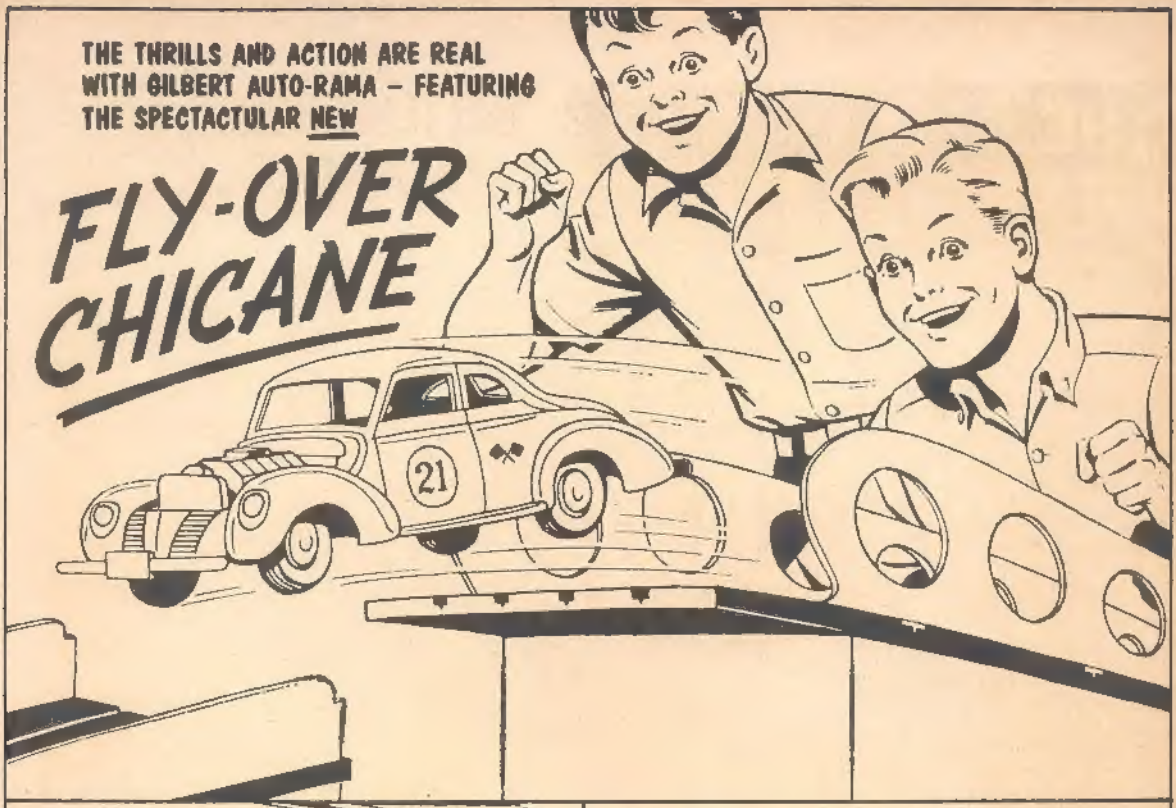
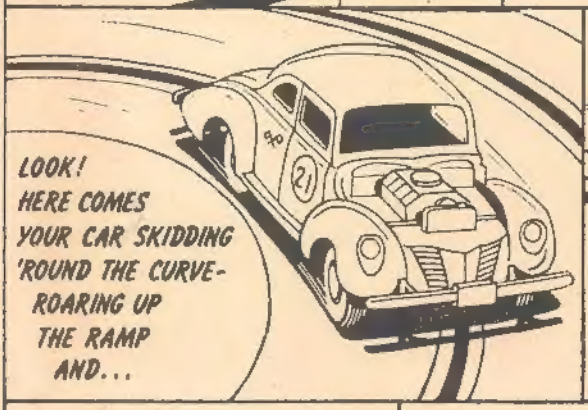
THE THRILLS AND ACTION ARE REAL WITH GILBERT AUTO-RAMA – FEATURING THE SPECTACTULAR NEW

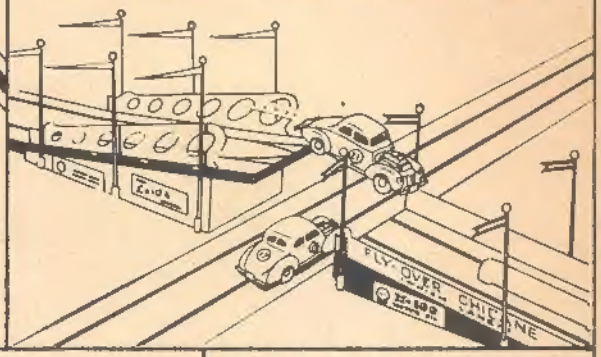
FLY-OVER CHICANE

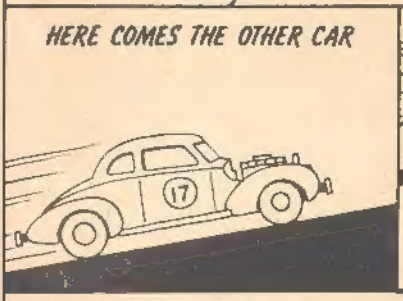




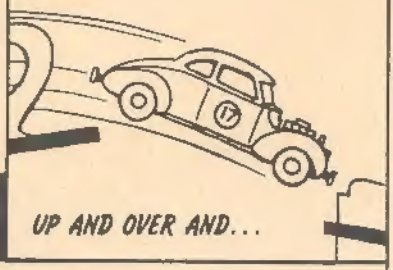
LOOK! HERE COMES YOUR CAR SKIDDING 'ROUND THE CURVE- ROARING UP THE RAMP AND...

OVER IT GOES AND SPEEDS DOWN THE TRACK!



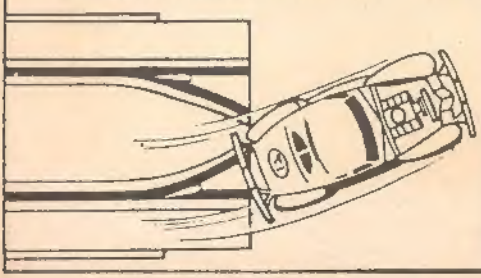


HERE COMES THE OTHER CAR



UP AND OVER AND...

IT CHANGES LANES IN MID AIR! YOU CONTROL THE DIRECTION...



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THE OUTER LIMITS

BATTLEGROUND of MONSTERS

BOAT HORNS BLARE, HANDS AND HANDKERCHIEFS WAVE, AS AN EXCITED, EXPECTANT CROWD WATCHES THE GRACEFUL QUEEN MARY BEING NOSED INTO HER DOCK BY FOUR TENDING TUGS THAT CHURN UP THE HUDSON'S CALM WATER INTO WHITE WAKES! ON THE WAITING PIER, DOCKMEN WATCH FOR THE LINES TO BE CAST DOWN TO THEM! WHILE THE CROWD OF GREETERS CHEERS AND SHOUTS, THE DOCKMEN'S FACES SHOW ONLY THE BOREDOM OF ANOTHER ROUTINE BERTHING OF THE GREAT LUXURY LINER...
WHAT HAPPENED? W-WHERE DID SHE GO?
MY EYES MUST BE PLAYING TRICKS!
NO! LOOK! THE TUGS ARE THERE-- JUST AS THEY WERE, BUT THE QUEEN MARY HAS DIS-APPEARED!
BUT SUDDENLY, THE ROUTINE IS SHATTERED! THE CHEERS DIE AND CHANGE INTO A GASP OF STUNNED DISBELIEF! THE DOCKHANDS' BOREDOM BECOMES BEWILDER-MENT! THE HUGE, GIANT CRUISE SHIP HAS DISAPPEARED!

THE OUTER LIMITS, No. 1, January-March 1964. Published quarterly by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., 750 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017. Helen Meyer, President; William F. Callahan, Jr., Executive Vice-President; Harold Clark, Vice-President-Advertising Director. Single copy price 12¢. All rights reserved throughout the world. The events contained herein are fictional and any resemblance to any person, living or dead, is purely coincidental. Printed in U.S.A. Designed and produced by Dell Publishing Co., Inc., Copyright © 1963 Daystar-Villa DiStefano—United Artists Television.

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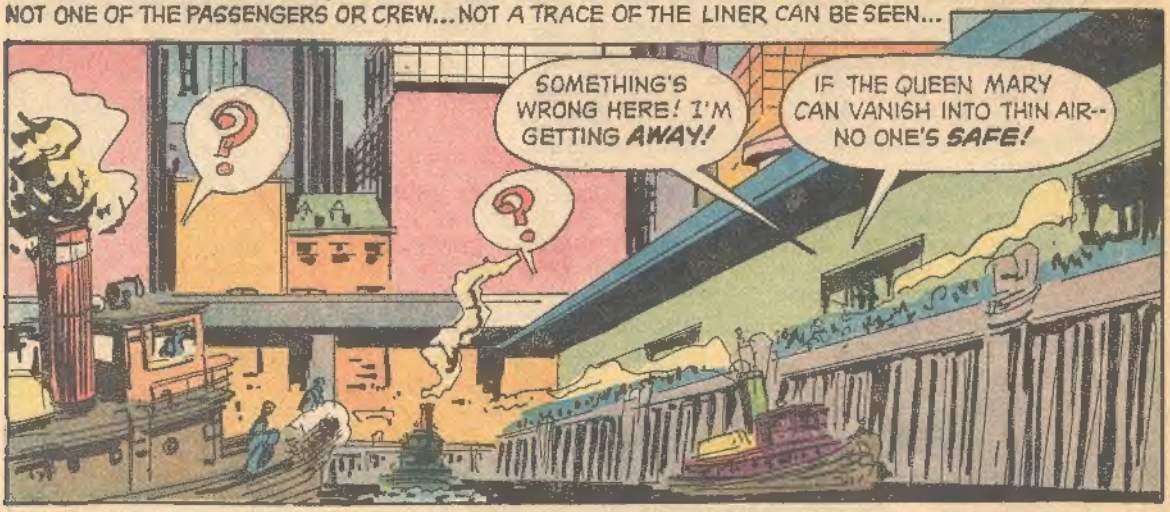
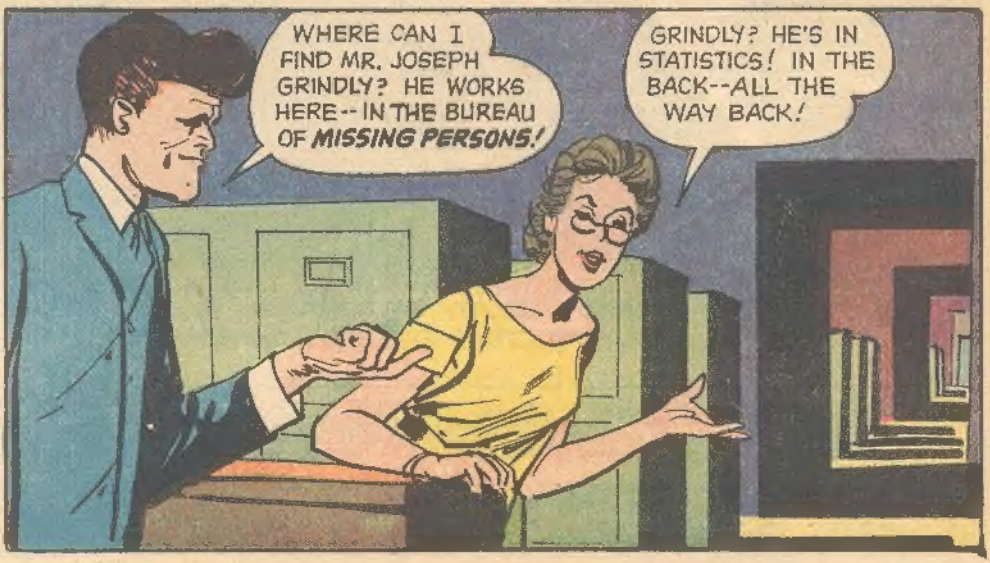

THE TUGS TWIST AND TURN, SEEKING THE SHIP THAT A MOMENT AGO THEY WERE TOWING! BUT NOT ONE OF THE PASSENGERS OR CREW... NOT A TRACE OF THE LINER CAN BE SEEN...
?
?
SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE! I'M GETTING AWAY!
IF THE QUEEN MARY CAN VANISH INTO THIN AIR-- NO ONE'S SAFE!

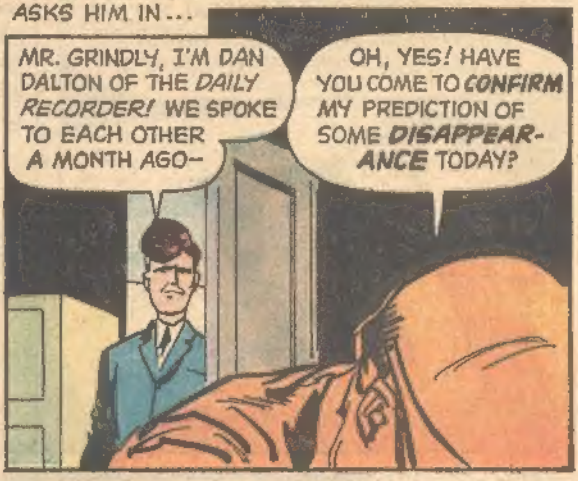
PANIC!! THE LAUGHING GREETERS CHANGE INTO A FEARFUL, FLEEING MOB...
DALTON, GET BACK OR WE'LL BE TRAMPLED!
I HOPE YOU GOT A PICTURE FOR OUR PAPER--BEFORE AND AFTER--OF THE DISAPPEARING QUEEN!

NO I DIDN'T! WHO COULD'VE BEEN READY FOR SUCH A THING? WHO COULD'VE IMAGINED IT WOULD HAPPEN?
ONE MAN DID PREDICT THERE'D BE A DISAPPEARANCE TODAY! I'M CALLING ON HIM NOW!

GRABBING A CAB, DAN DALTON RACES TO FIND THE MAN WHO PHONED HIS NEWSPAPER OFFICE A MONTH AGO WITH A RIDICULOUS PREDICTION-- BUT ONE THAT HAS, FANTASTICALLY, COME TRUE!


WHERE CAN I FIND MR. JOSEPH GRINDLY? HE WORKS HERE-- IN THE BUREAU OF MISSING PERSONS!
GRINDLY? HE'S IN STATISTICS! IN THE BACK--ALL THE WAY BACK!

AT THE LAST LITTLE OFFICE IN THE SPRAWLING SECTION, DALTON KNOCKS. A SURPRISED VOICE ASKS HIM IN...


MR. GRINDLY, I'M DAN DALTON OF THE *DAILY RECORDER!* WE SPOKE TO EACH OTHER A MONTH AGO—
OH, YES! HAVE YOU COME TO **CONFIRM** MY PREDICTION OF SOME **DISAPPEAR-ANCE** TODAY?

YES... THE **QUEEN MARY** VANISHED! BUT YOU SEEM TO TAKE IT SO **CASUALLY**--
WELL, I HAD EXPECTED **SOME** DISAPPEARANCE, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY SUCH A SPECTACULAR ONE! YOU SEE, I CAN TELL **WHEN** SOMEONE WILL VANISH-- BUT NOT **WHO!**

I KNOW YOU'RE IN STATISTICS HERE AT THE BUREAU OF MISSING PERSONS, BUT **HOW** CAN YOU TELL **WHEN** SOME-ONE WILL DIS-APPEAR?
BY STUDYING OUR FILES! YOU SEE, THEY GO BACK A HUN-DRED YEARS! AFTER CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF THE **DATES** WHEN PEOPLE VANISHED, I FOUND A STARTLING **PATTERN!!**

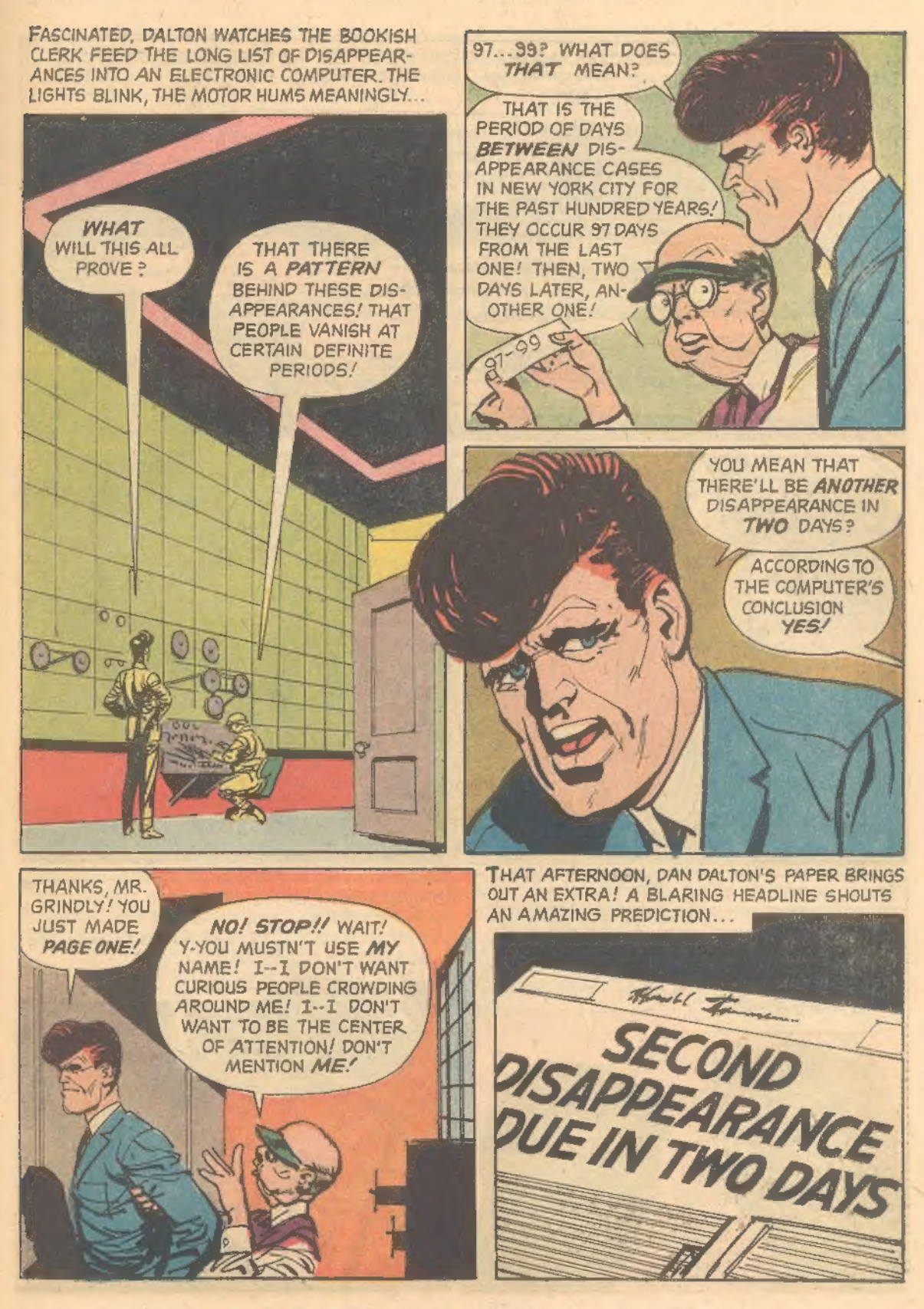
PICK AT RANDOM! NOTE THE DATES! HERE'S JUDGE CRATER... A WELL-KNOWN, IMPORTANT POLITICAL FIGURE IN NEW YORK AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY--TILL HE VANISHED!

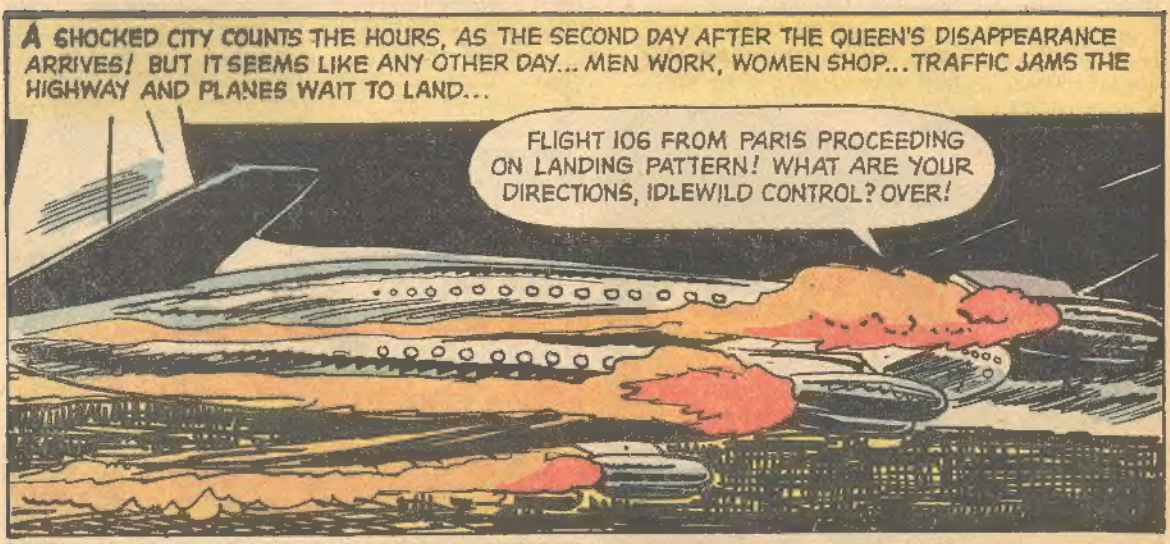
AND HERE IS JUDY CONWAY! ON AUGUST 11TH, 1893, SHE WENT AROUND THE CORNER OF FULTON STREET IN NEW YORK TO BUY CANDY -- BUT NEVER RETURNED!

QUICKLY, WITH FAMILIAR CERTAINTY, MR. GRINDLY DIPS INTO THE THICK FILES OF NEW YORK'S MISSING PERSONS, AS THE ASTOUNDING ROSTER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE SEEN AT ONE MOMENT AND GONE THE NEXT CONTINUES...

THIS WAGON TRAIN WAS TAKING EIGHT NEW YORKERS TO OREGON! IT WENT AROUND A BEND IN THE ROCKIES IN 1872, ON FEBRUARY 8TH, WHEN EVERYONE AND THE WAGONS VANISHED!

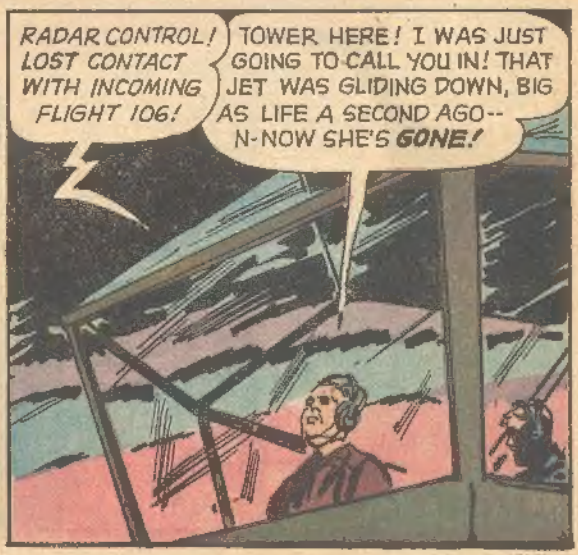
HOMER A. ASPINWALL AND FREDRICK WARSHAW WERE ENTHUSIASTIC BALLOONISTS. THEY WENT ALOFT ON MAY 18TH, 1893--AND NEVER CAME DOWN!


FASCINATED, DALTON WATCHES THE BOOKISH CLERK FEED THE LONG LIST OF DISAPPEARANCES INTO AN ELECTRONIC COMPUTER. THE LIGHTS BLINK, THE MOTOR HUMS MEANINGLY...
WHAT WILL THIS ALL PROVE?
THAT THERE IS A PATTERN BEHIND THESE DISAPPEARANCES! THAT PEOPLE VANISH AT CERTAIN DEFINITE PERIODS!
97...99? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
THAT IS THE PERIOD OF DAYS BETWEEN DISAPPEARANCE CASES IN NEW YORK CITY FOR THE PAST HUNDRED YEARS! THEY OCCUR 97 DAYS FROM THE LAST ONE! THEN, TWO DAYS LATER, ANOTHER ONE!
97-99
YOU MEAN THAT THERE'LL BE ANOTHER DISAPPEARANCE IN TWO DAYS?
ACCORDING TO THE COMPUTER'S CONCLUSION YES!
THANKS, MR. GRINDLY! YOU JUST MADE PAGE ONE!
NO! STOP!! WAIT! Y-YOU MUSTN'T USE MY NAME! I--I DON'T WANT CURIOUS PEOPLE CROWDING AROUND ME! I--I DON'T WANT TO BE THE CENTER OF ATTENTION! DON'T MENTION ME!
THAT AFTERNOON, DAN DALTON'S PAPER BRINGS OUT AN EXTRA! A BLARING HEADLINE SHOUTS AN AMAZING PREDICTION...
SECOND DISAPPEARANCE DUE IN TWO DAYS

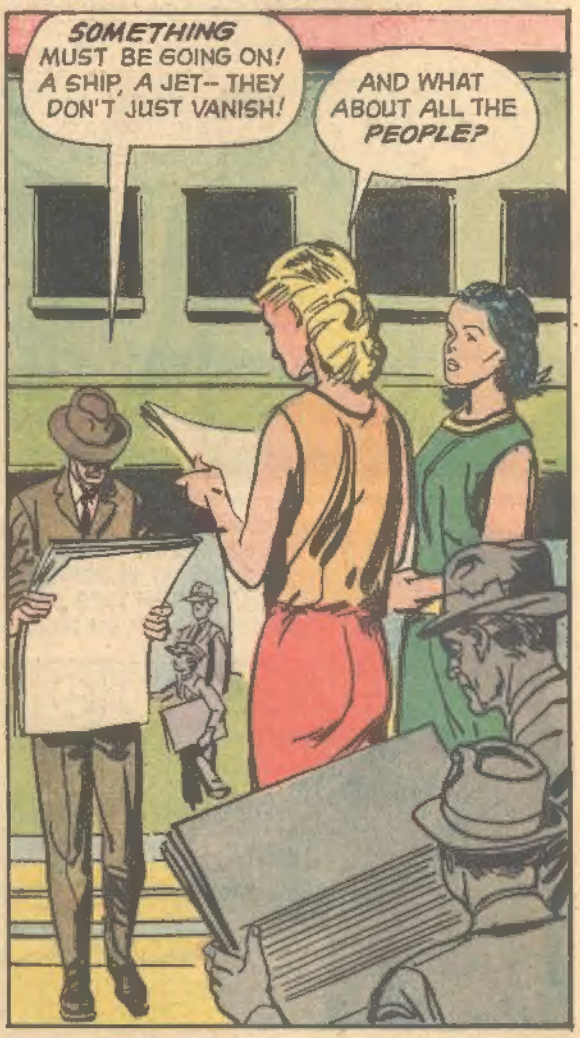

A SHOCKED CITY COUNTS THE HOURS, AS THE SECOND DAY AFTER THE QUEEN'S DISAPPEARANCE ARRIVES! BUT IT SEEMS LIKE ANY OTHER DAY... MEN WORK, WOMEN SHOP... TRAFFIC JAMS THE HIGHWAY AND PLANES WAIT TO LAND...
FLIGHT 106 FROM PARIS PROCEEDING ON LANDING PATTERN! WHAT ARE YOUR DIRECTIONS, IDLEWILD CONTROL? OVER!

I SEE YOU FLIGHT 106! IDLEWILD CONTROL TAKING OVER! MAINTAIN YOUR HEADING AND DROP TO FOUR THOUSAND-- REPEAT-- FOUR THOUSAND FEET--

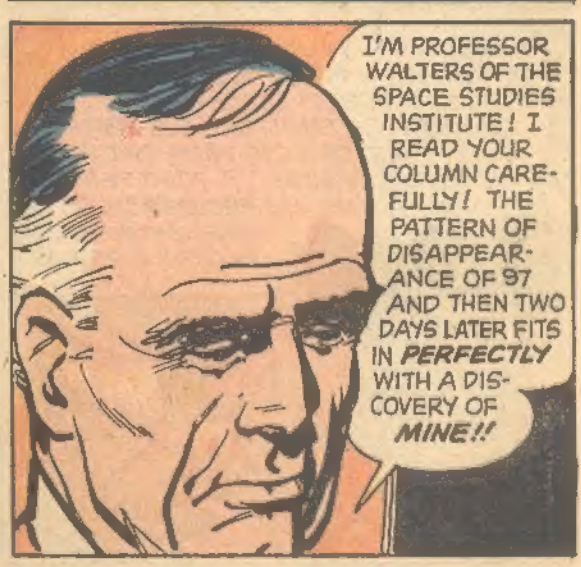
THEN SUDDENLY, THE CALM OF THE DIMLIT CONTROL ROOM IS SHATTERED...
LOOK! I CAN'T PICK UP FLIGHT 106! SHE WAS CLEAR ON RADAR-- NOW SHE'S GONE!!
COULD BE A SET MALFUNCTION! I'LL HAVE THE TOWER MAKE A VISUAL CHECK!


RADAR CONTROL! LOST CONTACT WITH INCOMING FLIGHT 106!
TOWER HERE! I WAS JUST GOING TO CALL YOU IN! THAT JET WAS GLIDING DOWN, BIG AS LIFE A SECOND AGO-- N-NOW SHE'S GONE!

QUICKLY, A VISUAL CHECK CONTINUES--NO SIGHTING! OTHER RADAR STATIONS ARE CONTACTED--NO SIGHTING! CIRCLING PLANES ARE RADIOED...
YES, I SAW THE JET STARTING ITS LANDING PATTERN -- T-THEN SHE JUST VANISHED!
THERE WASN'T ANY EXPLOSION--NOTHING! IT WAS JUST THERE ONE MOMENT-- THEN IT WASN'T!

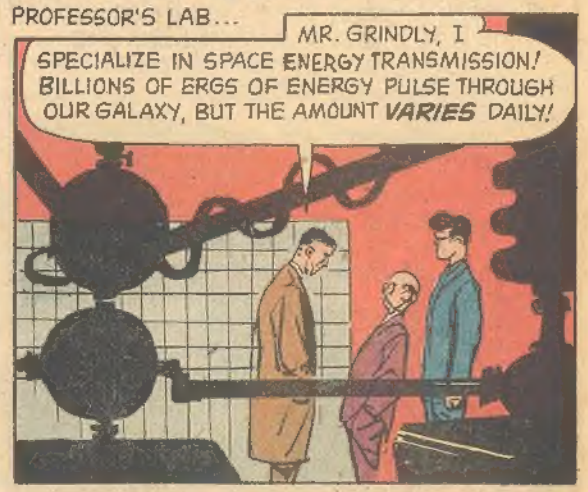

SCREAMING HEADLINES ANNOUNCE THE SECOND STARTLING DISAPPEARANCE IN THREE DAYS...
SOMETHING MUST BE GOING ON! A SHIP, A JET-- THEY DON'T JUST VANISH!
AND WHAT ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE?

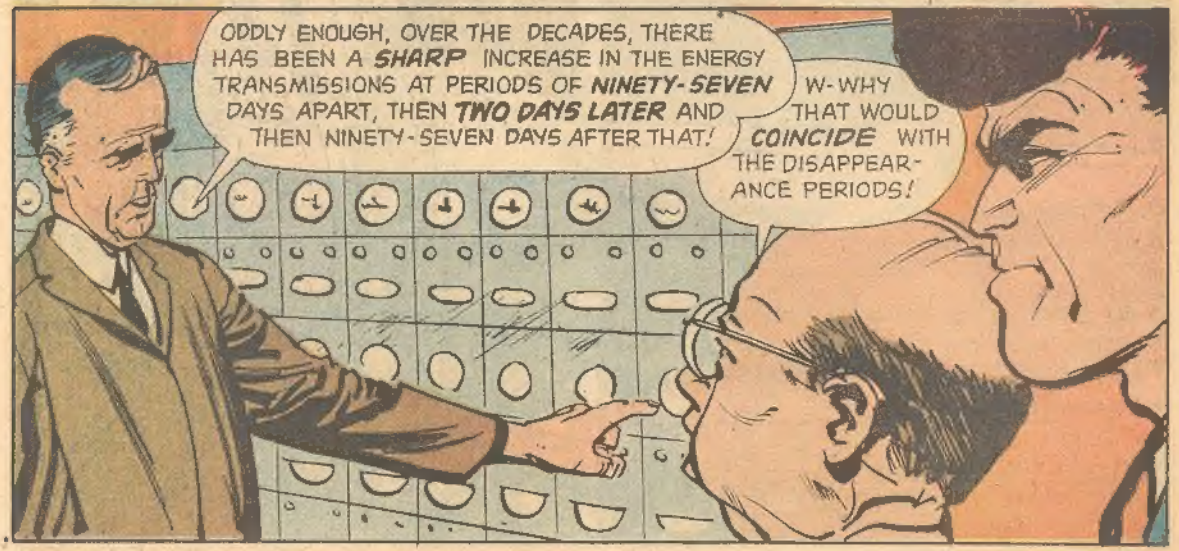
IN DALTON'S OFFICE, PHONES RING, CALLERS CLAMOR, ALL TRYING TO LEARN THE BASIS OF HIS CORRECT PREDICTION! THEN, A DETERMINED VISITOR STRIDES IN...
MR. DALTON, I MUST LEARN WHO--
SORRY! I CAN'T REVEAL MY SOURCE! I MADE THAT PROMISE!

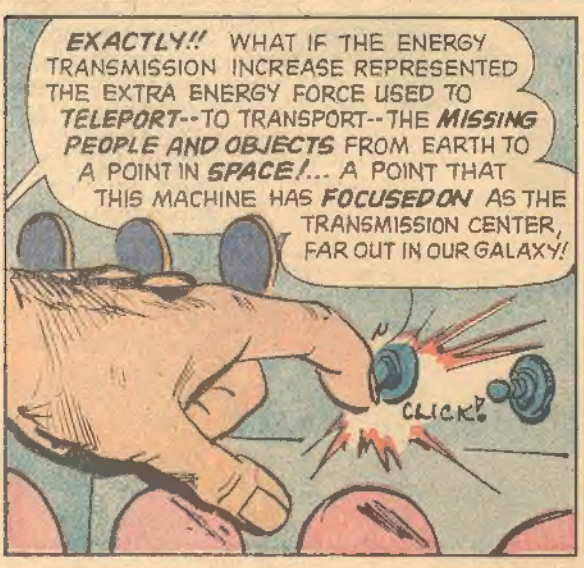

I'M PROFESSOR WALTERS OF THE SPACE STUDIES INSTITUTE! I READ YOUR COLUMN CAREFULLY! THE PATTERN OF DISAPPEARANCE OF 97 AND THEN TWO DAYS LATER FITS IN PERFECTLY WITH A DISCOVERY OF MINE!!

PROFESSOR WALTERS, JUST WHAT IS YOUR DISCOVERY?
SORRY, I'LL ONLY REVEAL IT TO YOU IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED A PATTERN IN THE DISAPPEARANCE DATES!

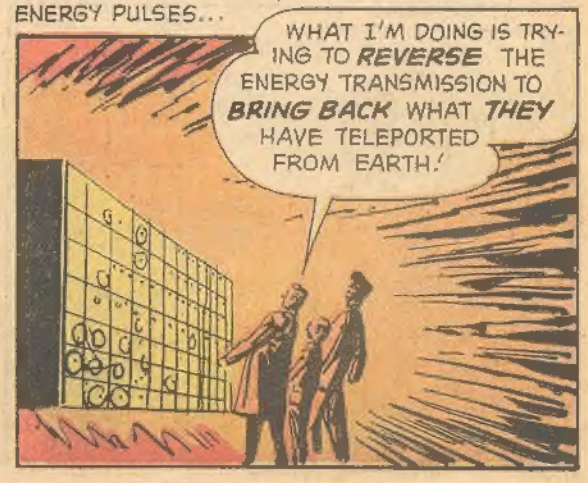
CONVINCED BY THE SCIENTIST'S EARNESTNESS, DALTON BRINGS THE MEEK STATISTICIAN TO THE PROFESSOR'S LAB...


MR. GRINDLY, I SPECIALIZE IN SPACE ENERGY TRANSMISSION! BILLIONS OF ERGS OF ENERGY PULSE THROUGH OUR GALAXY, BUT THE AMOUNT VARIES DAILY!

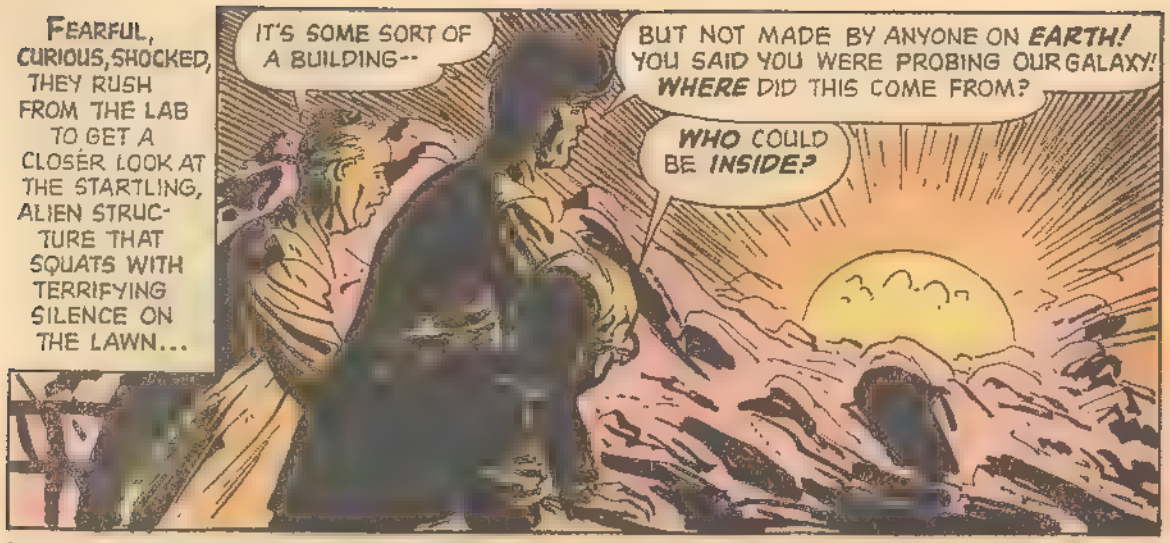

ODDLY ENOUGH, OVER THE DECADES, THERE HAS BEEN A SHARP INCREASE IN THE ENERGY TRANSMISSIONS AT PERIODS OF NINETY-SEVEN DAYS APART, THEN TWO DAYS LATER AND THEN NINETY-SEVEN DAYS AFTER THAT!
W-WHY THAT WOULD COINCIDE WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE PERIODS!


EXACTLY!! WHAT IF THE ENERGY TRANSMISSION INCREASE REPRESENTED THE EXTRA ENERGY FORCE USED TO TELEPORT--TO TRANSPORT--THE MISSING PEOPLE AND OBJECTS FROM EARTH TO A POINT IN SPACE!... A POINT THAT THIS MACHINE HAS FOCUSED ON AS THE TRANSMISSION CENTER, FAR OUT IN OUR GALAXY!
CLICK!

AS THE MEN WATCH, THE PROFESSOR TURNS ON AN ENERGY TRANSMISSION CONVERTER! FAR INTO THE REACHES OF SPACE, A LASER-BEAM OF ENERGY PULSES...



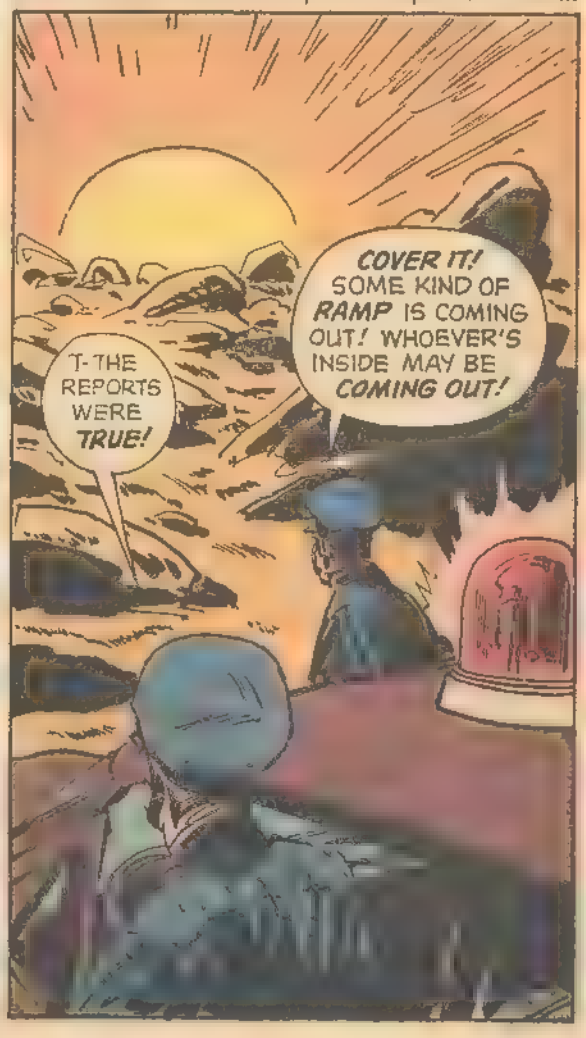
THE ENERGY-TRANSMITTER'S POWER IS BOOSTED! THE MACHINE ROCKS ON ITS CRADLE AND STARTS GLOWING WITH A THROBBING, EERIE LIGHT...
PROFESSOR, TURN IT OFF! YOU CAN'T BRING BACK THE MISSING PEOPLE! IT'S CRAZY! TURN IT OFF!!
SUDDENLY, THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE LAB QUIVERS, QUAKES AND CALMS! A SUCTION-LIKE NOISE SOUNDS OUTSIDE--AND THERE IS A BLINDING FLASH!
PROFESSOR-- LOOK!! YOU DIDN'T BRING BACK THE MISSING PEOPLE--YOU BROUGHT BACK THAT!
IN HEAVEN'S NAME, WALTERS, W-WHAT IS THAT?!!


FEARFUL, CURIOUS, SHOCKED, THEY RUSH FROM THE LAB TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THE STARTLING, ALIEN STRUCTURE THAT SQUATS WITH TERRIFYING SILENCE ON THE LAWN...
IT'S SOME SORT OF A BUILDING--
BUT NOT MADE BY ANYONE ON EARTH! YOU SAID YOU WERE PROBING OUR GALAXY! WHERE DID THIS COME FROM?
WHO COULD BE INSIDE?

BUT WHILE THE THREE MEN EXAMINE THE ODD STRUCTURE WITH FASCINATED INTEREST, OTHERS FIND THE UNEARTHLY BUILDING FRAUGHT WITH MENACE AND DANGER...

IT'S FULL OF MONSTERS! I SAW STRANGE EYES PEERING AT ME! RUN!
THERE ARE SOME KIND OF RAYS COMING FROM IT! THEY CAN KILL YOU! GET AWAY!

PANIC SPREADS WITH SWIFT SPEED! IN A FEW MOMENTS, WORD REACHES POLICE HEADQUARTERS. SIRENS SCREAMING, A RIOT SQUAD ARRIVES...



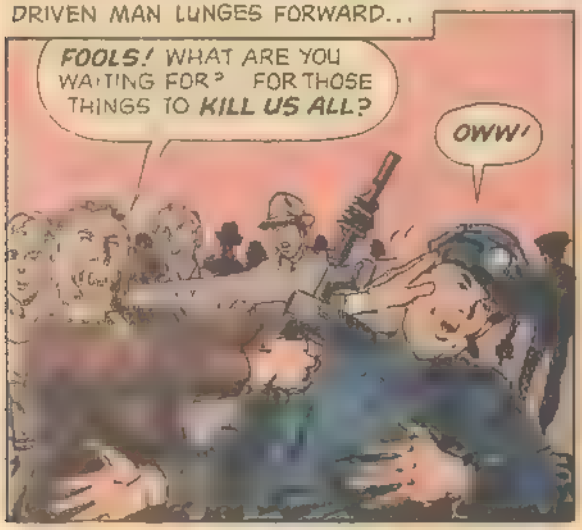
A HUSH OF FEARFUL EXPECTANCY FALLS OVER THE STARTLED SPECTATORS, AS THE RAMP SLAPS DOWN INTO PLACE! THEN, FROM THE STRANGE, GLEAMING METALLIC BUILDING, A LOW HUM IS HEARD...
THE DOOR IS OPENING! THEY'RE COMING OUT!
YES--BUT WHO... FRIEND OR FOE?
THEN, DOWN THE RAMP COMES THE TREAD OF ALIEN STEPS! OUT OF THE TELEPORTED BUILDING EMERGE FEARFUL, GROTESQUE FIGURES, CREATURES FROM ANOTHER WORLD... ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM! CREATURES WHOSE SECRET POWERS TO HELP OR TO DESTROY ARE UNKNOWN AND, BECAUSE THEY ARE UNKNOWN, MARK THEM AS THE MONSTER MENACES FROM THE DARK REACHES OF OUTER SPACE...
NO--WAIT!! THEY MAY BE FRIENDLY!
THEY'RE COMING TOWARD US!
GET READY TO SHOOT!

PARALYZED BY FASCINATED FEAR THEY WATCH THE APPROACH OF THE RELENTLESS ALIEN...

HE'S COMING RIGHT TO US!
BUT WHAT WILL HE DO WHEN HE DOES REACH US?
WE MUST THINK OF HIM AS A FRIEND-- TILL WE'RE PROVEN WRONG! WE MUSTN'T MAKE THE FIRST HOSTILE MOVE!

A WAVE OF DREAD RIPPLES THROUGH THE WATCHING CROWD AT THE APPROACH OF THE MONSTER AND THE THREE MEN STANDING OUT AHEAD, ALONE AND DEFENSELESS

BUT TERROR IS A POWERFUL FORCE. ONE FEAR-DRIVEN MAN LUNGES FORWARD...

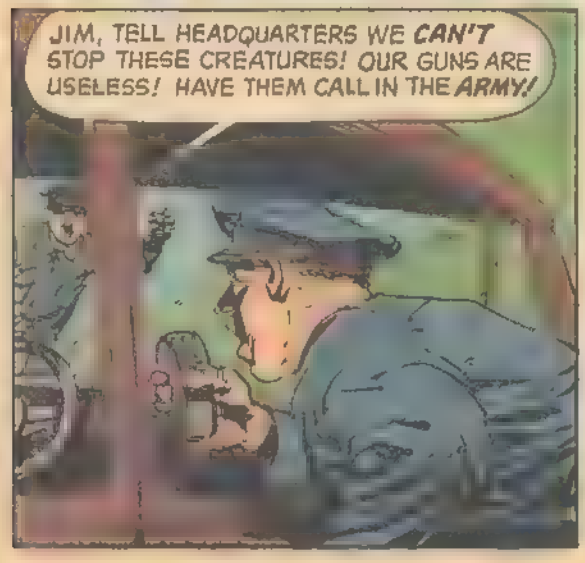


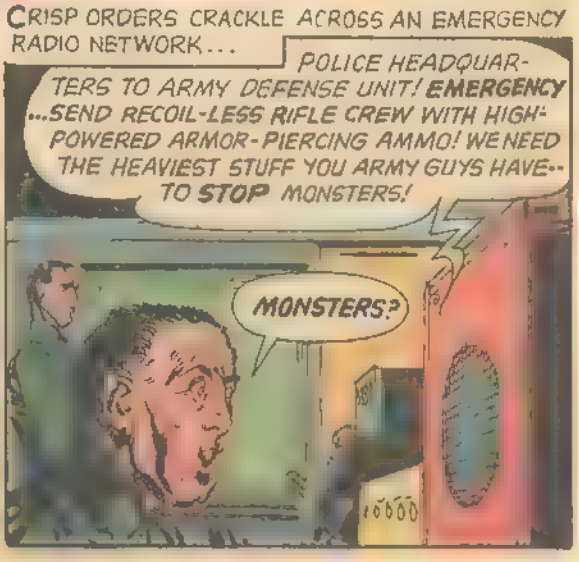
FILLED WITH FEAR AND PROMPTED BY HATRED FOR THE UNKNOWN, A FRENZIED MAN SWINGS A POLICEMAN'S TOMMYGUN TOWARD THE CLOSEST ALIEN CREATURE...
AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE BULLETS FIND THEIR EASY MARK! BUT EACH ONE GLANCES HARMLESSLY OFF THE ALIEN'S GROTESQUE BODY
STOP!! STOP FIRING!
NO! EVERYONE FIRE! IF WE ALL HIT HIM, SOMETHING'S BOUND TO HAVE AN EFFECT! FIRE!
WATCH OUT! I-IT'S RAISING ITS HAND!

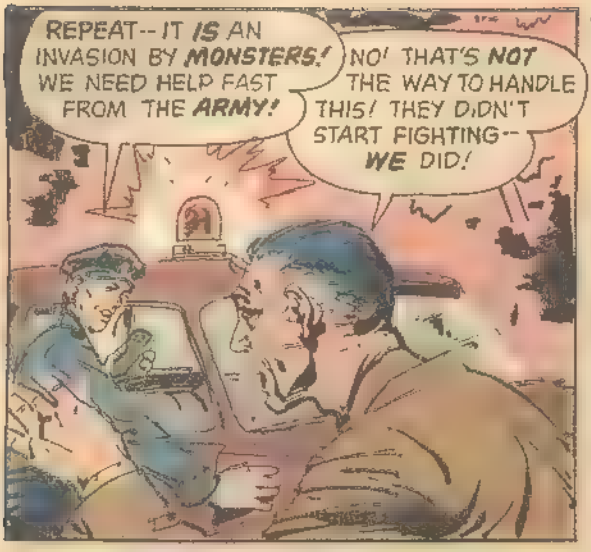
THE MONSTER'S HAND SWEEPS UPWARD! IT GLOWS A MOMENT, MENACINGLY... THEN A SHRILL, VIBRATING SOUND SCREAMS FROM THE POISED HAND! A BEAM OF SOUND FOCUSES ON THE TOMMYGUN! IT QUIVERS LIKE A TUNING FORK, VIBRATING FASTER AND FASTER TILL THE SOUND SHREDS IT TO PIECES AND PULVERIZES IT INTO HARMLESS DUST!
INCREDULOUS EYES WATCH THE STARTLING SPECTACLE OF STEEL DISINTEGRATING...
THE GUN'S G-GONE!
FEAR GRIPS THE HEARTS OF THE STUNNED SPECTATORS. PANIC PROMPTS ACTION...
ALL OF YOU--AIM FOR THE NEAREST MONSTER! KEEP FIRING!!
TAT-TAT-TAT-TAT!
TAT-TAT!

EVERY POLICE WEAPON BLASTS AT ONCE! EVERY BULLET FINDS ITS MARK ON THE ADVANCING MONSTER... BUT NONE OF THEM STOPS OR HARMS THE CREATURE...
I-IT'S NO USE!

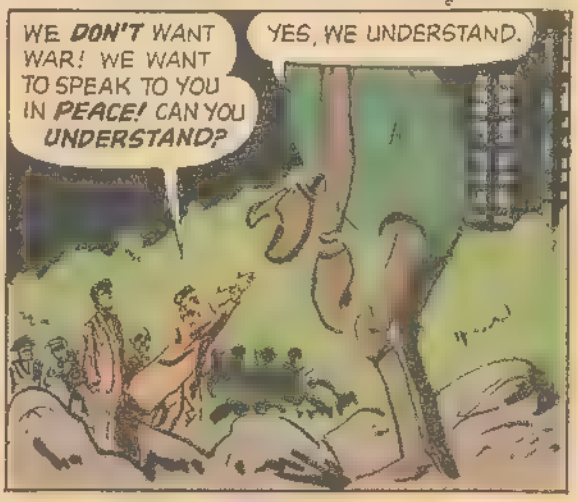
ONCE AGAIN, THE ALIEN'S HAND IS RAISED! AGAIN AN EERIE SOUND FILLS THE AIR, AS VIBRATION RAYS FOCUS ON EACH FIRING WEAPON, SHATTERING IT IMMEDIATELY INTO ATOMIZED DUST...
MY GUN'S SMASHED!
I-IT'S DISARMED EVERY ONE OF US!


JIM, TELL HEADQUARTERS WE CAN'T STOP THESE CREATURES! OUR GUNS ARE USELESS! HAVE THEM CALL IN THE ARMY!


CRISP ORDERS CRACKLE ACROSS AN EMERGENCY RADIO NETWORK...
POLICE HEADQUARTERS TO ARMY DEFENSE UNIT! EMERGENCY ...SEND RECOIL-LESS RIFLE CREW WITH HIGH-POWERED ARMOR-PIERCING AMMO! WE NEED THE HEAVIEST STUFF YOU ARMY GUYS HAVE-- TO STOP MONSTERS!
MONSTERS?


REPEAT--IT IS AN INVASION BY MONSTERS! WE NEED HELP FAST FROM THE ARMY!
NO! THAT'S NOT THE WAY TO HANDLE THIS! THEY DIDN'T START FIGHTING-- WE DID!

BRUSHED ASIDE BY THE POLICE OFFICER, PROFESSOR WALTERS RUSHES TOWARD THE MONSTERS.



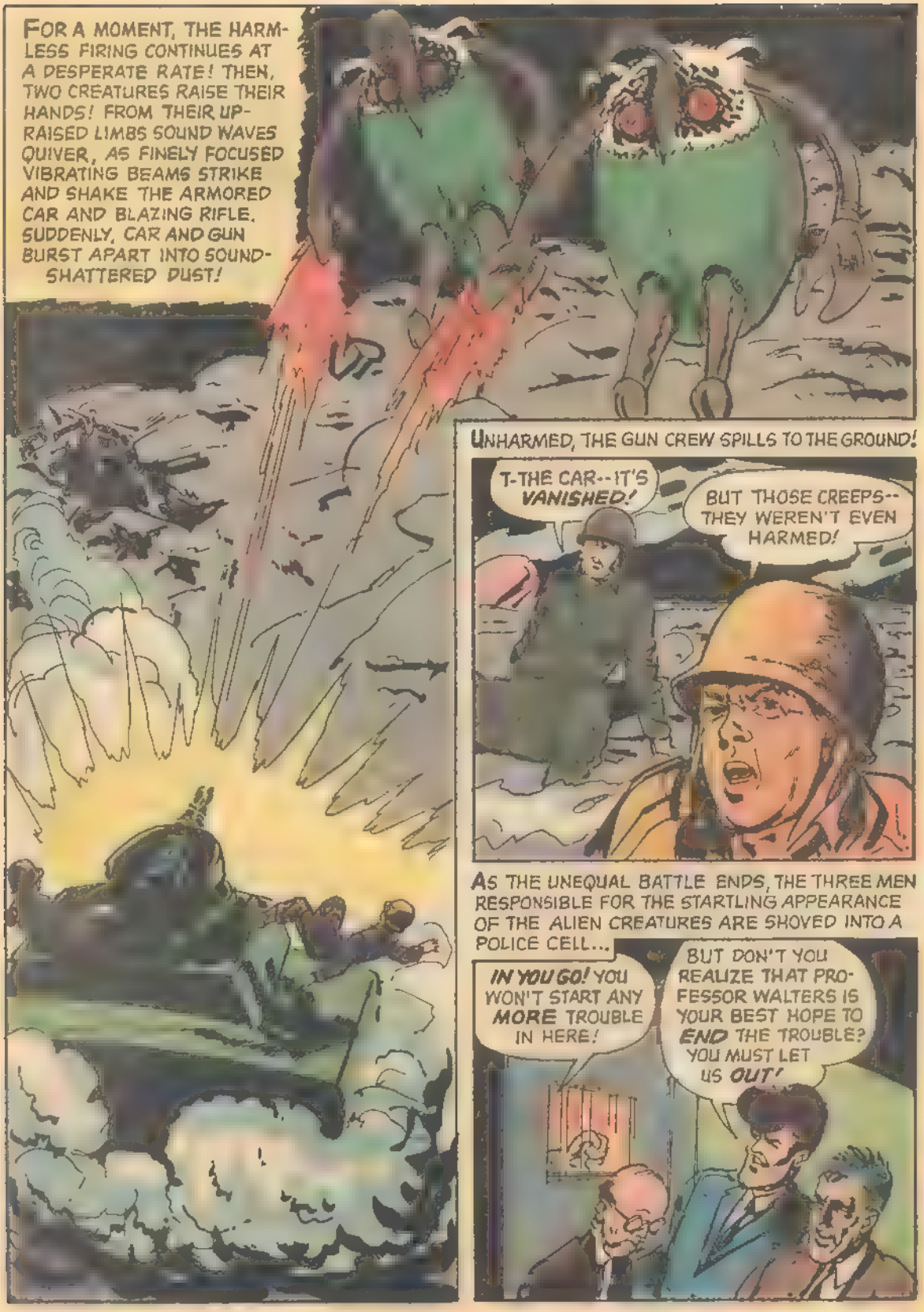
HOW CAN HE SPEAK OUR LANGUAGE? HOW?
WE HAVE... STUDIED YOU.. AND YOUR LANGUAGE... FOR A LONG TIME! WE HAVE BROUGHT YOUR PEOPLE...TO OUR WORLD JUST AS YOU BROUGHT US TO YOURS!

BUT BEFORE ANOTHER WORD CAN BE EXCHANGED, AN ARMY ARMORED CAR RACES UP, ITS RECOIL-LESS RIFLE READY

DON'T FIRE!! WE CAN SPEAK TO THEM! THEY WON'T HARM US!
THEY ALREADY HAVE! DIDN'T THEY SMASH EVERY POLICE GUN?
THAT WAS JUST A MATTER OF SELF-DEFENSE! DON'T START ANOTHER HOSTILE ACT! WE CAN USE REASON!

THESE KOOKS ARE THE ONES WHO BROUGHT THOSE MONSTERS HERE! GET THEM OUT OF THE WAY SO WE CAN GET RID OF THE MONSTERS BEFORE SOMEONE IS HURT!
LET US GO
COME ALONG!

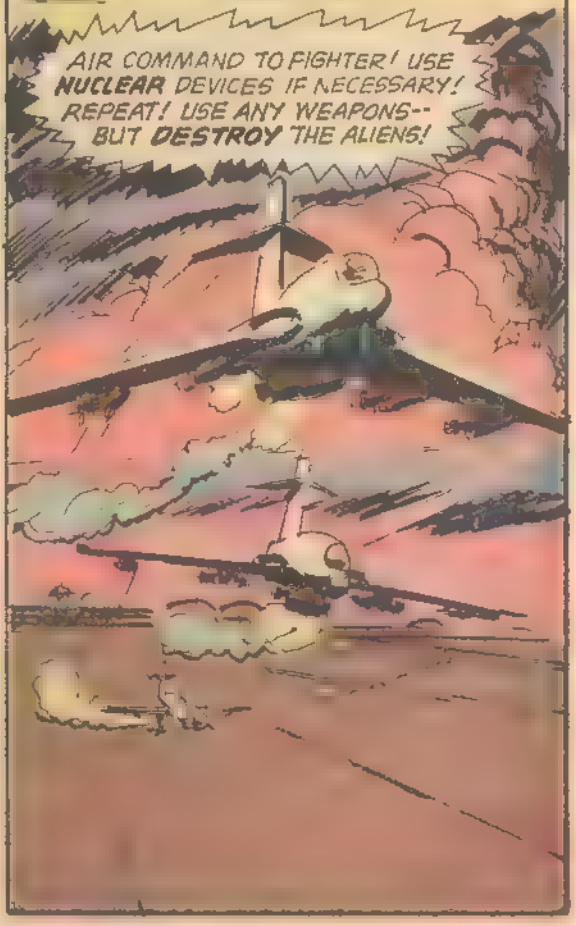
AS THE THREE MEN ARE DRAGGED OFF PROTESTING, THE ARMY GUN CREW WITH PRACTICED SPEED AIMS AND FIRES ITS POWERFUL WEAPON...


FOR A MOMENT, THE HARMLESS FIRING CONTINUES AT A DESPERATE RATE! THEN, TWO CREATURES RAISE THEIR HANDS! FROM THEIR UP-RAISED LIMBS SOUND WAVES QUIVER, AS FINELY FOCUSED VIBRATING BEAMS STRIKE AND SHAKE THE ARMORED CAR AND BLAZING RIFLE. SUDDENLY, CAR AND GUN BURST APART INTO SOUND-SHATTERED DUST!
UNHARMED, THE GUN CREW SPILLS TO THE GROUND!
T-THE CAR--IT'S VANISHED!
BUT THOSE CREEPS--THEY WEREN'T EVEN HARMED!
AS THE UNEQUAL BATTLE ENDS, THE THREE MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STARTLING APPEARANCE OF THE ALIEN CREATURES ARE SHOVED INTO A POLICE CELL...
IN YOU GO! YOU WON'T START ANY MORE TROUBLE IN HERE!
BUT DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT PROFESSOR WALTERS IS YOUR BEST HOPE TO END THE TROUBLE? YOU MUST LET US OUT!

WHILE THE THREE MEN ARE LOCKED IN A CELL, THE MONSTERS MOVE RELENTLESSLY.
WHERE IS THE ONE...WHO BROUGHT US HERE? YOU CANNOT...STOP US! WE WILL... FIND HIM!

ON THEY ADVANCE, INTO THE CITY, AS STARTLED CITIZENS GAPE AT THE ASTOUNDING SIGHT! FEAR SPREADS! PEOPLE FLEE! AND THE STEADY MARCH OF THE MONSTERS CONTINUE...

WORD FLASHES ON EMERGENCY CHANNELS. THE POLICE FAILED! THE ARMY FAILED! JETS BLAZING, THREE AIR FORCE FIGHTERS WITH LETHAL WEAPONS ZOOM SKYWARD TO MEET THE CHALLENGE FROM BEYOND THE OUTER LIMITS OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM...



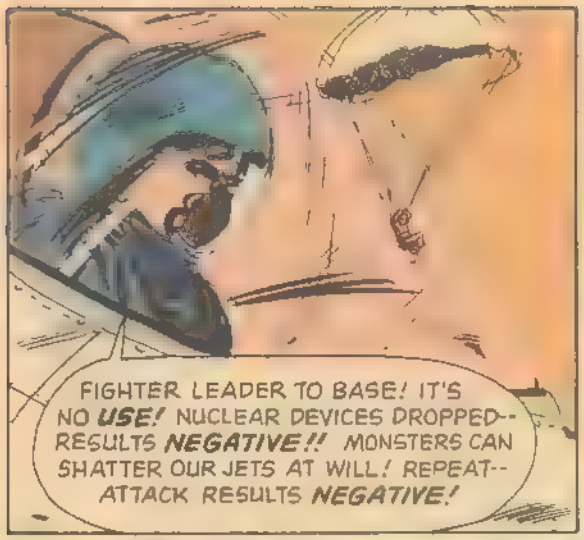
MISSILES CUT FROM THE JETS' WINGS, STRIKING IN VAIN THE ADVANCING MONSTERS! THEN, THE FIGHTERS CIRCLE, STEADYING THEIR COURSE FOR THE KILL! NUCLEAR-TIPPED BOMBS ARE THEN ZEROED IN ON THE CREATURES BELOW! A SHATTERING BUT RADIOACTIVELY CLEAN EXPLOSION BURSTS THE GROUND AROUND THE MONSTERS! SMOKE AND DEBRIS HURTLE SKYWARD--BUT THE MONSTERS MOVE ON STEADILY--UNHARMED...

BOOM!

AN ANGRY HAND POINTS SKYWARD! A BEAM OF VIBRATING SOUND FOCUSES ON A FLASHING JET AS IT PULLS OUT OF ITS BOMB RUN...

WOBBLING WILDLY, THE WINGS OF THE FIGHTER ARE SHAKEN TO MOLECULAR BITS! THE WHOLE CRAFT STARTS DISINTEGRATING AROUND THE SHOCKED PILOT...

G-GOT TO HIT THE SILK! IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE!

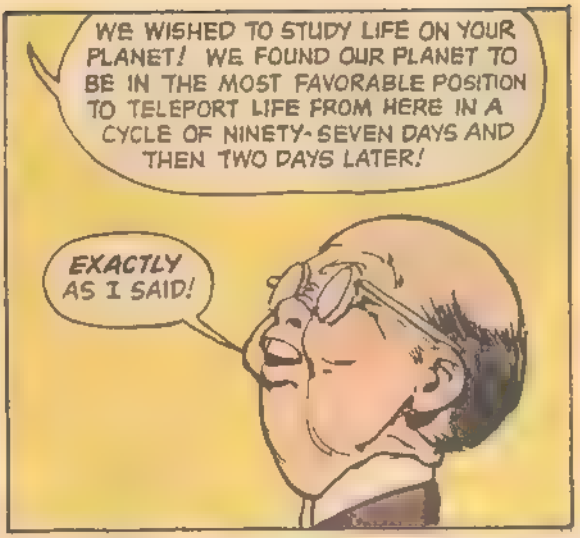

FIGHTER LEADER TO BASE! IT'S NO USE! NUCLEAR DEVICES DROPPED--RESULTS NEGATIVE!! MONSTERS CAN SHATTER OUR JETS AT WILL! REPEAT--ATTACK RESULTS NEGATIVE!

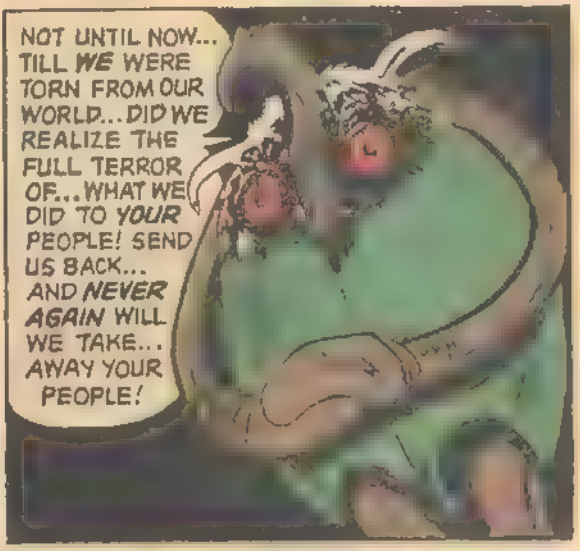
AS THE JETS SWEEP SWIFTLY FROM THE SCENE, THE MONSTERS HALT! A LOUD, FIRM VOICE BOOMS OUT...

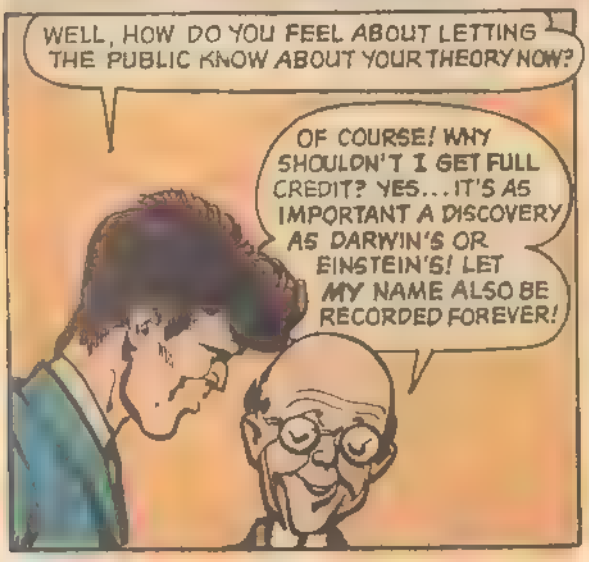
BRING THE THREE GUYS WE JAILED OUT TO THEM? THAT'D BE SIGNING THEIR DEATH WARRANTS!
AND IF WE DON'T, WE MAY BE SIGNING THE CITY'S DEATH WARRANT! GET THEM!

QUICKLY, WITH BLARING SIRENS CLEARING THE WAY THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE FEARFUL CITY, THE THREE MEN ARE BROUGHT TO THE WAITING MONSTERS...

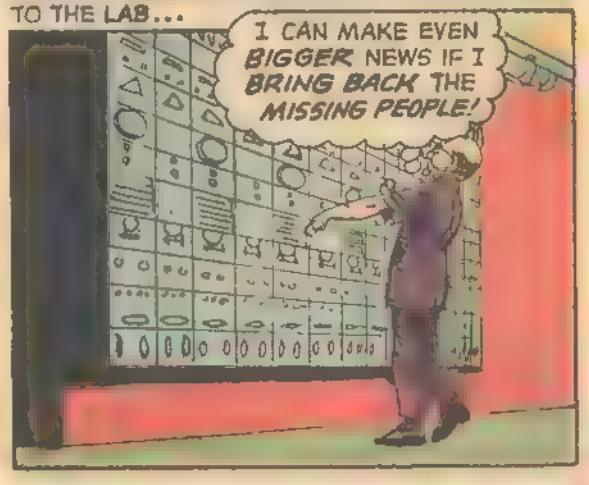
WE WISH TO BE RETURNED TO OUR PLANET! IF YOU HAD THE POWER TO BRING US HERE, YOU HAVE THE POWER TO RETURN US! WE HAVE BROUGHT YOUR PEOPLE TO OUR WORLD MANY TIMES!
DID YOU HEAR THAT? THEN GRINDLY WAS RIGHT!


WE WISHED TO STUDY LIFE ON YOUR PLANET! WE FOUND OUR PLANET TO BE IN THE MOST FAVORABLE POSITION TO TELEPORT LIFE FROM HERE IN A CYCLE OF NINETY-SEVEN DAYS AND THEN TWO DAYS LATER!
EXACTLY AS I SAID!

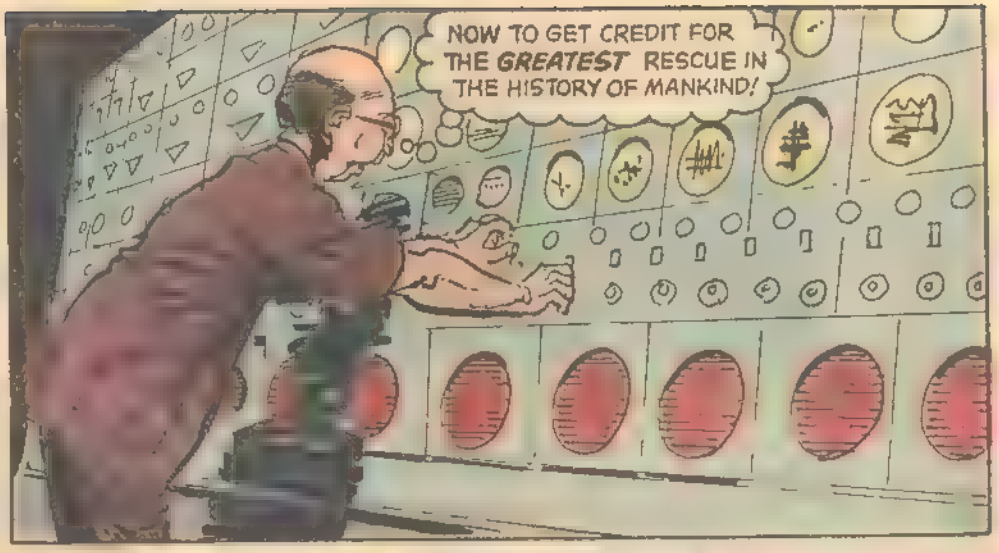

NOT UNTIL NOW... TILL WE WERE TORN FROM OUR WORLD... DID WE REALIZE THE FULL TERROR OF... WHAT WE DID TO YOUR PEOPLE! SEND US BACK... AND NEVER AGAIN WILL WE TAKE... AWAY YOUR PEOPLE!


WELL, HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT LETTING THE PUBLIC KNOW ABOUT YOUR THEORY NOW?
OF COURSE! WHY SHOULDN'T I GET FULL CREDIT? YES... IT'S AS IMPORTANT A DISCOVERY AS DARWIN'S OR EINSTEIN'S! LET MY NAME ALSO BE RECORDED FOREVER!

SWELLING WITH PRIDE, SUDDENLY OVERLY SURE OF HIMSELF... AS THE OTHERS TALK TO THE ALIENS, THE ONCE MEEK JOSEPH GRINDLY BOLDLY RETURNS TO THE LAB...

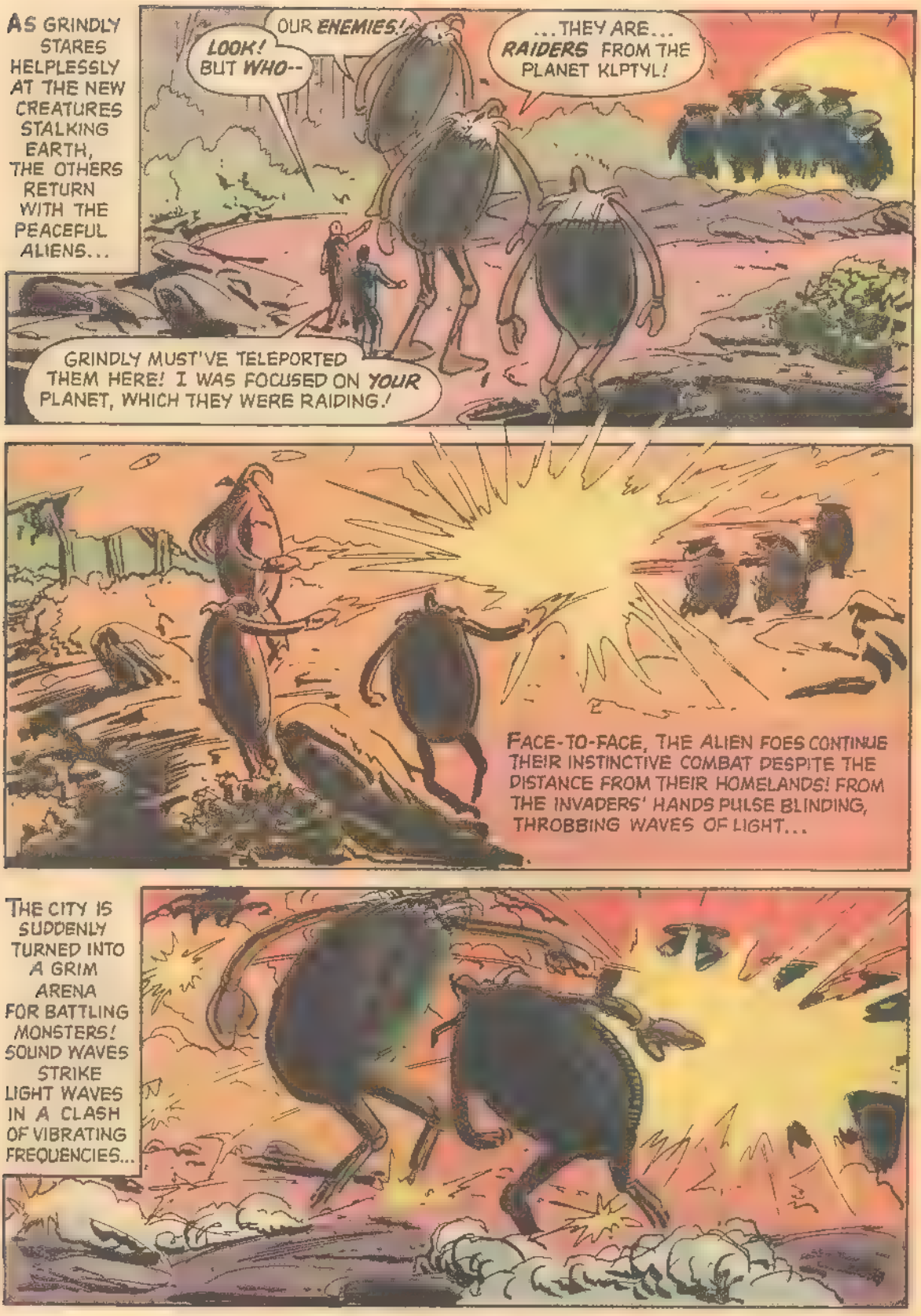


CONFIDENT HE HAS MASTERED THE MACHINE FROM HAVING SEEN IT IN OPERATION JUST ONCE, GRINDLY SWITCHES ON ITS POWER! THE TELEPORTER PURRS PURPOSEFULLY, ITS COUNTERS GLOWING WITH SPACE-PROBING POWER...



SECONDS LATER, THERE IS A FLASH OF LIGHT OUTSIDE! GRINDLY RACES OUT, GAPING AT THE SUDDEN APPEARING OBJECT THAT COMES TO REST BY THE FIRST ALIEN STRUCTURE...

A HATCH FLIPS OPEN! OUT OF THE STRANGE CRAFT, FIVE FORBIDDING FIGURES EMERGE... FIVE FRIGHTENING MONSTERS WHOSE VERY BEARING BODES PERIL...

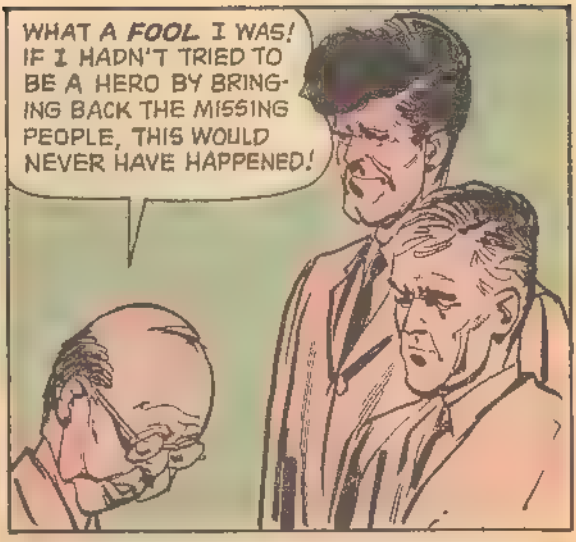

AS GRINDLY STARES HELPLESSLY AT THE NEW CREATURES STALKING EARTH, THE OTHERS RETURN WITH THE PEACEFUL ALIENS...
LOOK! BUT WHO--
OUR ENEMIES!
...THEY ARE... RAIDERS FROM THE PLANET KLPTYL!
GRINDLY MUST'VE TELEPORTED THEM HERE! I WAS FOCUSED ON YOUR PLANET, WHICH THEY WERE RAIDING!
FACE-TO-FACE, THE ALIEN FOES CONTINUE THEIR INSTINCTIVE COMBAT DESPITE THE DISTANCE FROM THEIR HOMELANDS! FROM THE INVADERS' HANDS PULSE BLINDING, THROBBING WAVES OF LIGHT...
THE CITY IS SUDDENLY TURNED INTO A GRIM ARENA FOR BATTLING MONSTERS! SOUND WAVES STRIKE LIGHT WAVES IN A CLASH OF VIBRATING FREQUENCIES...

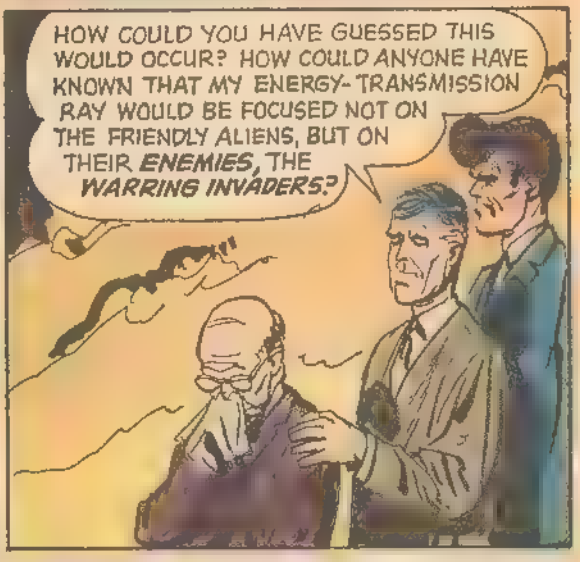
AS THE INCREDIBLE BATTLE BETWEEN ALIEN CREATURES CONTINUES, THE LIGHT AND SOUND WAVES CLASH AND SMASH. FINALLY, ONE FOCUSED BEAM OF LIGHT STRIKES WITH LETHAL FORCE...

THE BATTLE RAGES ACROSS THE CITY, AS THE AGGRESSIVE MONSTERS TRY DESPERATELY TO FOCUS THEIR LIGHT WAVES WITH DEADLY EFFECT! BUT THE RETREATING, PEACEFUL ALIENS COUNTER EACH ATTACK WITH A BARRIER OF SOUND WAVES! THEY LOOK FOR A PLACE TO HIDE... TO PAUSE FOR A MOMENT'S REST.. THEN, SUDDENLY, AHEAD LOOMS A HUGE REFUGE!

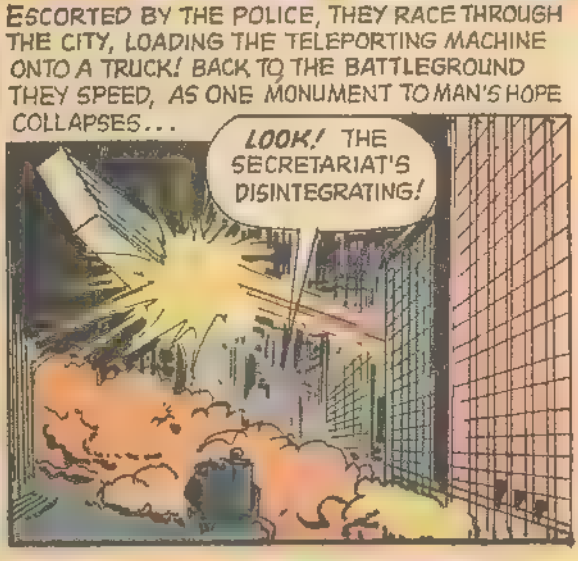
THE *UNITED NATIONS!* BEFORE THEY'RE THROUGH FIGHTING, THOSE BUILDINGS'LL *ALL* BE *WRECKED!*
BEFORE THEY'RE THROUGH, OUR WHOLE *WORLD* MAY BE *SMASHED!*

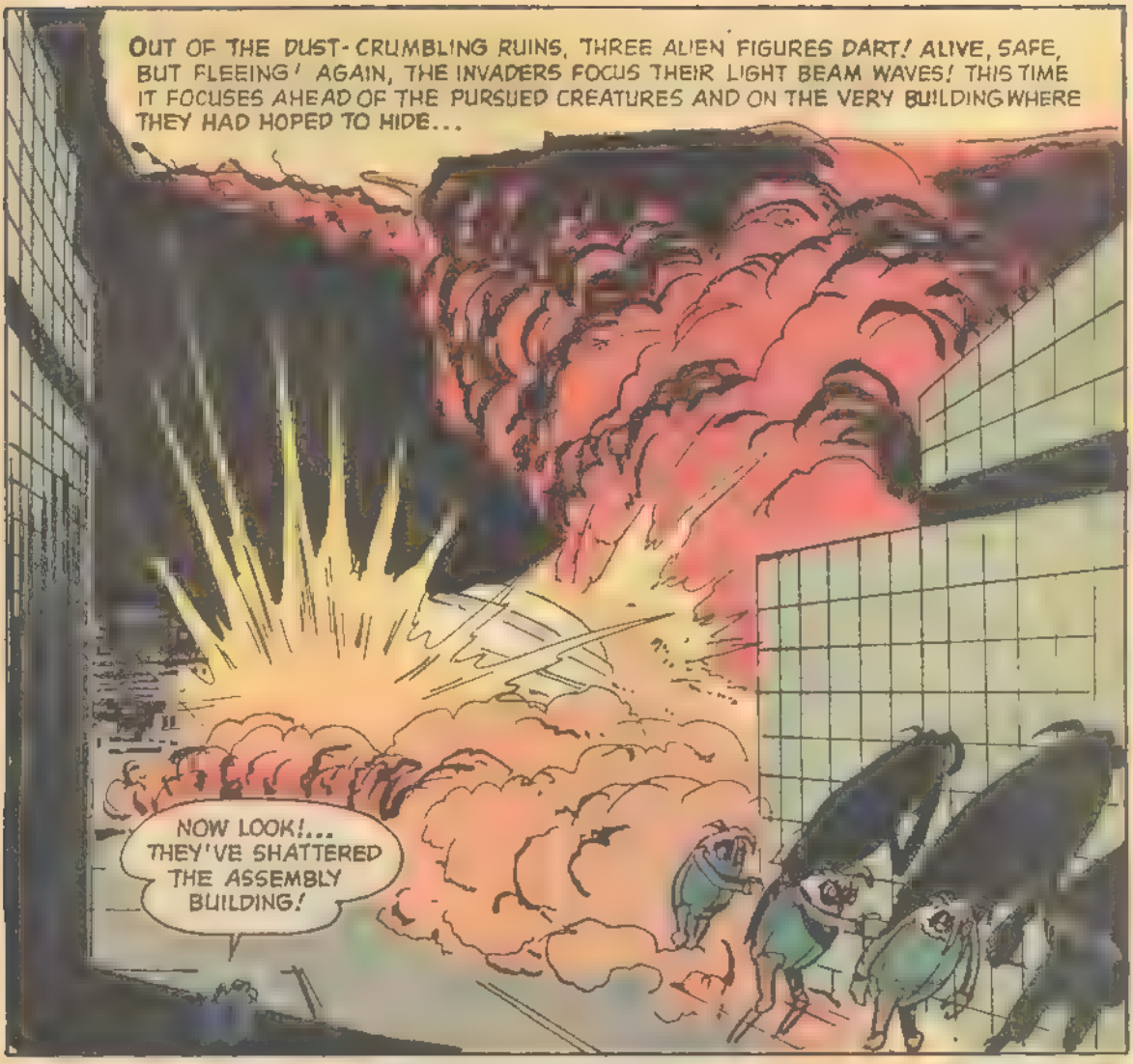
AS ONE GROUP OF ALIENS FINDS TEMPORARY COVER INSIDE THE TOWERING BUILDING, THE HOSTILE INVADERS FOCUS THEIR DEADLY LIGHT WAVES ON THE GLIMMERING STRUCTURE! STEEL AND CONCRETE WAVER UNDER THE LIGHT AND THE BUILDING QUAKES OMINOUSLY...

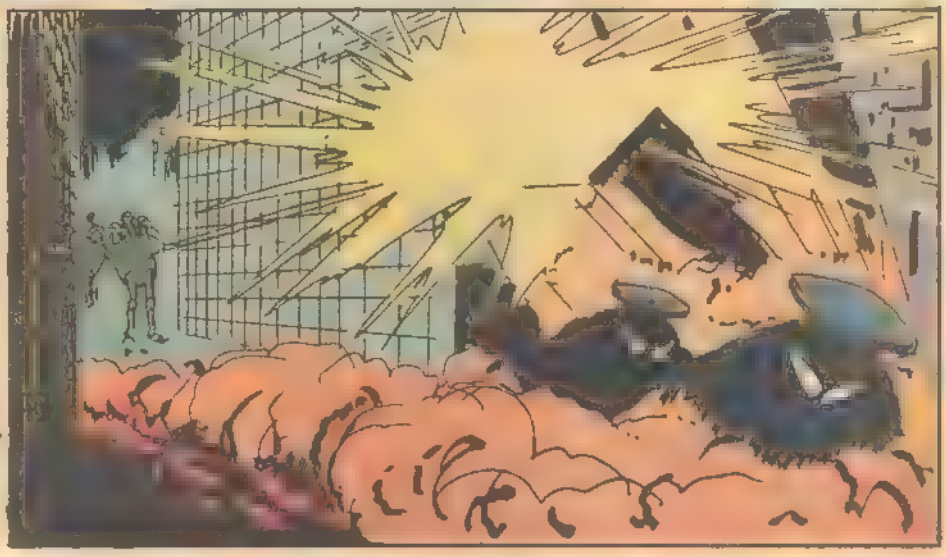

WHAT A FOOL I WAS! IF I HADN'T TRIED TO BE A HERO BY BRINGING BACK THE MISSING PEOPLE, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED!


HOW COULD YOU HAVE GUESSED THIS WOULD OCCUR? HOW COULD ANYONE HAVE KNOWN THAT MY ENERGY-TRANSMISSION RAY WOULD BE FOCUSED NOT ON THE FRIENDLY ALIENS, BUT ON THEIR ENEMIES, THE WARRING INVADERS?

WAIT!! IF THAT RAY OF MINE IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BRING THEM HERE, IT MIGHT BE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO SLAY THEM!
IF WE DON'T, OUR WORLD MAY END IN THE ASHES OF THEIR WAR!


ESCORTED BY THE POLICE, THEY RACE THROUGH THE CITY, LOADING THE TELEPORTING MACHINE ONTO A TRUCK! BACK TO THE BATTLEGROUND THEY SPEED, AS ONE MONUMENT TO MAN'S HOPE COLLAPSES...
LOOK! THE SECRETARIAT'S DISINTEGRATING!


OUT OF THE DUST-CRUMBLING RUINS, THREE ALIEN FIGURES DART! ALIVE, SAFE, BUT FLEEING! AGAIN, THE INVADERS FOCUS THEIR LIGHT BEAM WAVES! THIS TIME IT FOCUSES AHEAD OF THE PURSUED CREATURES AND ON THE VERY BUILDING WHERE THEY HAD HOPED TO HIDE...
NOW LOOK!... THEY'VE SHATTERED THE ASSEMBLY BUILDING!


COUNTER-ATTACK! THE THREE FLEEING FIGURES FOCUS THEIR COMBINED SOUND WAVES ON A BUILDING BEHIND THEIR ATTACKERS! BRICK AND CEMENT PULVERIZE UNDER THE BATTERING VIBRATION OF HIGH FREQUENCY SOUND! UNDER THE DESCENDING DEBRIS, ONE HOSTILE MONSTER FALLS, BURIED BY THE BLAST OF SOUND!

AS THE BATTLE CONTINUES, PROFESSOR WALTERS WORKS AT FEVERISH SPEED...
B-BUT WON'T YOUR BEAM KILL BOTH GROUPS?
IF WE DON'T GET RID OF THEM BOTH, THEY'LL DESTROY THE CITY BRICK BY BRICK!
WE HAVEN'T ANY CHOICE!... THEY'VE PICKED OUR CITY, OUR WORLD TO CONTINUE THEIR WAR! IT'S DESTROY OR BE DESTROYED!
TURNING HIS ENERGY TRANSMITTER ONTO FULL BOOST, PROFESSOR WALTERS FOCUSES ITS POWERFUL RAY AT THE NEAREST MONSTERS...
I'VE DOUBLED THE DOSAGE THAT BROUGHT THEM HERE! IT COULD EITHER SEND THEM BACK--OR DESTROY THEM HERE!
QUICKLY! TURN THE RAYS ON THE OTHERS! THEY'RE GOING TO USE THEIR LIGHT WAVES ON US!

QUICKLY, PROFESSOR WALTERS WIDENS THE BEAM, AS BOTH GROUPS OF ALIENS ARE HELD IN ITS BRILLIANT FOCUS. THE CREATURES GLOW AND QUIVER UNDER THE POWERFUL RAY! THEN SUDDENLY, INEXPLICABLY, THE HOSTILE INVADERS SINK LIFELESSLY TO THE THE SOIL OF A DISTANT PLANET... TO A DEATH BILLIONS OF MILES AWAY FROM THEIR HOME...
ONLY THE INVADERS ARE FALLING! THE OTHERS ARE STILL SAFE! TURN IT OFF! TURN OFF THE BEAM!

SWIFTLY, PROFESSOR WALTERS FLICKS OFF THE SWITCH. THE BEAM FADES! A SOMBRE STILLNESS FILLS THE AIR! THEN, THE ONCOMING TREAD OF THE SURVIVORS IS HEARD...
THANK GOODNESS, YOU'RE ALIVE! BUT WHY DID THE BEAM SLAY THEM-- NOT YOU?
THE INVADERS ARE FROM ANOTHER PLANET! OUR BODY CHEMISTRY IS DIFFERENT... BY ONE ATOM OF CARBON -- BUT A FATAL DIFFERENCE FOR THEM!
WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF... YOUR WORLD! CAN YOU RETURN US TO OURS?
YES, I BELIEVE I CAN! BY REVERSING THE ENERGY TRANSMISSION FREQUENCY, I SHOULD REVERSE THE PROCESS THAT BROUGHT YOU HERE!
YOU OWE YOUR PRESENCE HERE TO THIS BRILLIANT LITTLE MAN! HE FIRST THEORIZED THAT THERE WAS A PATTERN IN A TIME SEQUENCE TO DISAPPEARANCES--
STOP!...PLEASE! I WANT NO CREDIT! I-- I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE IN MY OFFICE WITH MY FILES!
RETURN US AND YOU WILL FIND... THAT WE ARE... MOST GRATEFUL!
THERE...THE DIALS ARE SET! I CAN'T GUARANTEE THAT THIS WILL TELEPORT YOU TO YOUR PLANET...
...ALL I CAN DO IS TRY!

UNDER THE BRILLIANT FLARING FOCUS OF THE FANTASTIC BEAM, THE ALIEN CREATURES BEGIN TO SLOWLY, BUT STEADILY FADE AND FADE TILL SUDDENLY, THE BEAM HOLDS ON EMPTY SPACE!
GONE! IT WORKED, PROFESSOR! YOU HAVE TELEPORTED THEM BACK TO THEIR PLANET ACROSS THE VASTNESS OF SPACE!
I'M GLAD, BUT I KEEP WONDERING WHAT THEY MEANT WHEN THEY MENTIONED SHOWING US THAT THEY WERE GRATEFUL!
OH, THEY MEANT THAT THEY'D STOP TELEPORTING PEOPLE FROM HERE EVERY 97 DAYS! THAT THERE'D BE NO MORE MISSING PERSONS!
NO! THEY MEANT MUCH MORE THAN THAT!... LOOK THERE!

SUDDENLY THE AIR AROUND THEM BEGAN TO GLOW AND QUIVER! OUT OF THE NOTHINGNESS OF SPACE, AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT MATERIALIZES! ONTO THE STREETS, ONTO THE LAWNS, ONTO THE RIVER APPEAR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN... DRESSED IN THE COSTUMES OF A DOZEN DIFFERENT PERIODS IN FANTASTIC VARIETY...
A-ARE WE IMAGINING IT?
NO! THE ALIENS DID THIS!
THEY'RE BACK--EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM IS BACK! NOT ONE PERSON MISSING OVER THE PAST CENTURY IS STILL MISSING!

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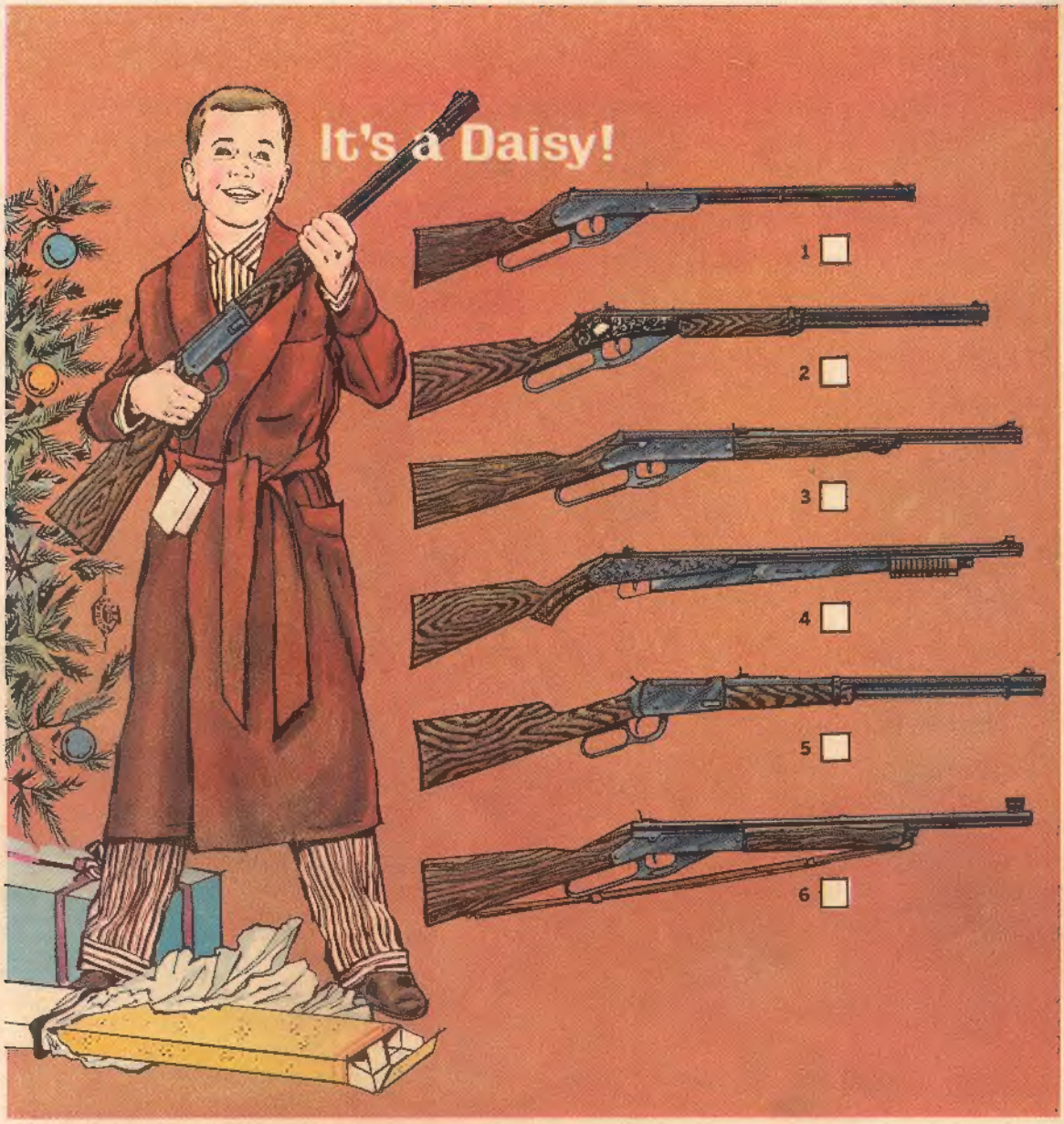

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